

China
History

of

Friends Work

in

China

History of Friends Work in China.



The history of the work in central China under the care of the Ohio Friends has been one of steady growth in spite of all but unsurmountable difficulties since the beginning. An outsider might have been excusable for thinking that the going of Esther H. Butler to the interior of China some seventeen years ago was something of an experiment.

Divinely Indeed it would have been had she mis-
called. taken the voice that called her. It will be profitable as we review these years, to recognize from the first the finger of God working in response to the faith of his children, opening a way in the midst of the enemy's country for the planting of His glorious kingdom.

In the first place the launching out of a single woman alone, to make a way for herself in a heathen land was only justifiable because she was certain that her Master bade her go. Even in so short a period as seventeen years the traveling accommodations on the Pacific has materially changed. The undesirable trans-pacific steamers then used in the Asiatic service are now largely replaced by large

Esther H. Butler sea-worthy ships. The voyage
sails was undertaken on the S. S.

October 3, 1887. Port Victor, Oct. 3rd, 1887. It was attended with considerable danger and great

discomfort. Upon her arrival in China, as previously arranged, she took up a temporary position as matron and nurse of the M. E. Hospital under the direction of Dr. Robert Beebe. This opening in the light of later years has the mark of divine leading upon it. Dr. Beebe proved to be a man of broad mind and sound judgment and in the purchase of our mission site and the erection of the "Quakerage," his assistance was invaluable. He has ever since remained a trusted and honored friend to the mission.

While thus providentially located and engaged in the study of the language and customs of the Chinese, the interest in foreign missions was growing

Amanda Kirkpatrick at home, and **Amanda Kirkpatrick reaches China** **November 1888.** Butler. No more striking evidence of the impetus given to the foreign mission

work in Ohio could be mentioned than the fact of the enlarged amount of space given to the subject in the Yearly Meeting Minutes the following year. Miss Kirkpatrick arrived in China in November 1888 and went to live with one of the lady missionaries until the mission home should be completed.

Mission site purchased. In January 1890, the purchase of our present compound was effected. How difficult this ordeal

2 acres cost \$600.00. Mex. no one can ever appreciate who has not been through it, and yet the wisdom of selecting this place has never been called in question.

Home Built 1890 With the assistance of Miss Kirkpatrick the plans for the "Quakerage"

Cost \$2500.00. were prepared, the lot graded and enclosed by a wall. In November, about three years after the arrival of Miss Butler, and two years after Miss Kirkpatrick reached Nanking, they were able to take possession of the new home. It was doubtless a day of rejoicing with

them, but there was a second side to the situation. Untried paths lay before them, grave responsibilities pressed upon them, and about them seemed a countless multitude of heathen women living in indescribable darkness. Many and severe had been



MISSIONARY HOME, NANKING.

the trials that lined the way up to the present moment which marked the opening of the American Friends work in China, but a dark day awaited the **Miss Kirkpatrick** work. Amanda Kirkpatrick's **returns home** health was failing and they were **Jan. 1891.** barely settled when she was advised to return to the home land. The disappointment which she had to meet may be gleaned from the following: "Never before did the harvest seem so ripe and the opportunities for work so great and nothing, it seemed, would have given me more pleasure than the privilege of spending all my days gleaning in that white harvest field."

Again Miss Butler was alone, but she went steadily on in faith and two months later the **Hussey Orphanage built 1890.** Training Home, later known as the "Orphanage," was completed and opened. **Cost \$1,500.00** Temporarily relieved from the responsibility of house building, Miss Butler:

was free to attend heart and soul to the work of paramount interest, viz., soul-winning. But this joy was short lived.

The dragon enemy of China was preparing a new test for the patience and courage of the faithful witness. It was only another two months between the opening of the Training School for Women and the closing of all work by the rioters. For the next six months, all work was paralyzed and the missionaries were driven to seek places of safety. As an example of the indomitable faith and perseverance of the home church, it is interesting to note that even during the uprising, when everything in Central China was in a chaotic condition, another single lady was being prepared for the **Lenna Stanley** field. In less than a month after **arrives** quietness had been restored **Lenna**
Dec. 1891. M. Stanley arrived at Nanking. From this time on the seed-sowing was not openly hindered, but let no one suppose that the enemy withdrew opposition, he merely changed his form of attack from the violent to the subtle.

The coming of Miss Stanley made the opening of the Orphanage possible, and later on the Girls Boarding School which now stands as one of the most interesting and valuable features of our work at Nanking. Child-training has always been a most fruitful source of Christian service and the rearing of educated, God-fearing women in China is precious labor for Christ. No nation can hope to prosper whose mothers are both crippled and ignorant.

The next forward step in the unfolding of the **Dr. Gaynor arrives** Master's plan was the coming
Sept. 1892. of Dr. Lucy A. Gaynor. Her physical endurance and large-hearted service made her accession to the mission invaluable. Woman's work for woman is, perhaps, in no other heathen land, with the possible exception of India, so im-

portant as it is in China. There was already two large hospitals in Nanking, but there was an unoccupied field for special woman's work. Although the doctor was supposed to be devoted solely to the study of the language, she was beset with calls for



HOSPITAL, NANKING.

medical help, and before the end of the first year she wrote: "We are more and more impressed that medical work is to be one of the great avenues through which untold blessings are to come upon the people of all classes, as we seek to reach them with the gospel of peace." Her work was seriously cramped for want of space, being confined to a small room in the Orphanage.

The following year, viz., 1892 Miss Butler returned to America on furlough and presented the need of a hospital building for women and child-

Hospital for Women ren. In 1894 this need was
and Children erect- met through the bequest of
ed 1895. Cost, \$2750. Dr. C. G. Hussey. A hospital building was erected capable of accommodating thirty to forty patients, including a spacious waiting-room or chapel which has been used to the present time for church purposes.

In Oct. 1896 the medical work was transferred to the newly built hospital and thus was opened

an agency by which thousands should be brought, through their suffering, to know of God and see his love-lesson demonstrated. The story of the Good Samaritan has been literally enacted times without number in obedience to the command of Jesus, "Go, and do thou likewise."

During Miss Butler's absence, Miss Effie A. Murray, of the Christian Missionary Alliance, took charge of the Woman's Training School and later.

Miss Murray joins Mission 1896. in 1896, she became a regular member of the mission. She has been largely connected with the new Training School and evangelistic work generally, ever since she came to us.

We will turn now for a moment to the development of the missionary interest at home. The little company of women, full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, had not only seen the desire of their hearts in the planting of a mission in China with three substantial buildings and a pioneer force of four excellent workers, but with the enlarging of their faith, they had opened a station in India. The success of the movement had now the confidence of other Friends, and in October, 1894, when our Su-

Margaret Holme. of New York. arrives 1894. perintendent returned from America she took with her Margaret A. Holme. The lat-

ter joined the Central China Mission as a representative of the C. E. Society, of New York Yearly Meeting. From the first it was the policy of the Board to provide their workers with sufficient means to insure them a plain, yet adequate support, in order that they might be able to give undivided thought to the needs of others. The longer a missionary is able to live in China the more valuable he becomes. For this reason it is regarded for the best interest of the work, to relieve the workers from unnecessary hardship by providing good food,

suitable clothing, fuel and the necessities of life generally.

Owing to the war between China and Japan, the year 1895 was marked as a time of danger to the workers. Under the restraining hand of the Almighty, they were prevented from making good their threat, "to drive all the foreigners into the sea." The missionaries were ordered to leave Nan-

War, Japan-China king at one time, but quiet was
1895.

restored and the workers permitted to stay. At this time, when it was only possible to walk by faith, our Superintendent wrote, "But we know 'though the heathen rage,' God reigns." At such times it is worth a great deal to feel certain that God is at the helm, turning every upheaval ultimately to his own account. It was then as it was five years later when the Chinese Empire was convulsed by the Boxer uprising. 'The faint-hearted cried out, "It is all of no use." But after each frenzied attempt of the Dragon Empire to protect himself, he awakes to find himself fighting against his friends.

As the church sprang up under the patient, faithful preaching of the Word, the need for male workers began to be felt, and although the request was not met until sometime later, we find Miss Butler writing thus to the Yearly Meeting, "I believe the need to be so urgent that it should claim the especial attention of the Ohio Yearly Meeting."

The moving of the medical work to the hospital relieved the congestion at the Orphanage and later on the Training School for Bible-women was also transferred to the west end of the hospital building, leaving the orphanage to the uses for which it was originally intended. It ultimately be-

Girls' Boarding School came, however, the home for
1897.

the Girls' Boarding School. During the past few years the latter has grown and

developed, whereas the orphan work has not been encouraged. The reason for this may be generally stated as follows:

1st. The Orphanage is almost distinctly the work of the Roman Catholic church in China and is generally regarded by the masses with suspicion.

2d. Great difficulty is experienced in suitably mating Chinese girls of unknown parentage, and particularly if subject to hereditary disease, which is so often the case among this class of children.

The number of such children now under our care is only six, three having died in infancy. These are doing well, all but the youngest being regular students in the Girls' Boarding School.

3d. In case of riots or internal uprisings the foreigner is unable to take any considerable number with him and hence is unable to provide this protection.

While the lights and shadows were passing over this vine of God's planting, other workers were being prepared in America. M. Isabella French **Dr. M. I. French.** and George F. DeVol, both sailed for China graduates from Earlham College **Nov. 18, 1897.** were engaged in preparing to be medical missionaries, the former under the direction and help of the Board. In 1897 Dr. French graduated at the Ohio Wesleyan University and sailed in the autumn of the same year for China.

With the increasing staff of workers, it was thought wise to open another center. Lu Ho, a walled city of about 25,000 inhabitants, lay north of the Yang tsi, some twenty-five miles from Nanking. Being, as we believe, providentially led to this place, a chapel was rented and the station visited about twice a month for some

Lu Ho occupied time. In October 1898, Miss
Oct. 1898.

Holme and Dr. French went there to live in a Chinese building. The people came in crowds, not only to be healed, but to hear the Gospel. Many believed and turned to the Lord and very soon the second Friends church was planted in Central China.

In 1899 Dr. Gaynor returned to the United States on furlough, leaving the hospital work for that year, in charge of Dr. French. Early in Dr. Gaynor's work she had taken in a few young women to train as medical helpers. Among these there was one, Miss Taung, of beautiful character and disposition. She has now completed her course of eight years in the theory and practice of medicine



DR. TAUNG.

and has secured a certificate of competency to practice.

She is regarded as a physician and in the absence of the foreigner is intrusted with the care of

Dr. Taung the medical work. Of this young
completes her woman it should be noted that
medical course. she is one of the third generation of Christians in China. Her grandmother was among the early converts in Shanghai and her father's family though large is almost altogether Christian. It is in such as she, that we may gather something of what we may expect from the multitude of little folk who are being reared about Christian alters in this heathen land.

In Oct. 1899 the long-felt need for a man and his wife was realized in the coming of Wilbur A.

Mr. and Mrs. Estes and Julia B. Estes. They
arrive had been engaged in educational work at Vassalboro, Me., and were peculiarly successful in
Oct. 1899. soul-winning among their students. Mr. Estes had recently been recorded a minister among Friends.

Three months later Dr. Geo. F. DeVol representing

Dr. Geo. DeVol New York Yearly Meeting arrived
arrives on the field and on Jan. 17, 1900,

Jan. 1900. Dr. Isabella French and Dr. DeVol were united in marriage. In this dark land, marriage and home life are, generally speaking, devoid of that which makes Christian marriage beautiful and holy. It is then that a free daughter becomes a servant as she passes, veiled, into the possession of an unknown master. In order to help the Chinese to know the power of Christianity in lifting woman to the plane of her husband a number of them were invited to be present at the occasion.

Early the next spring rumors of a northern uprising against all foreigners came to us daily.

Unrest seemed everywhere. Bulletins were posted threatening to burn and destroy. Finally actual violence culminated in the siege of Peking and a general edict calling for the murder of all foreign-
Boxer up-ers. During the summer there was
rising a reign of terror resulting in adding
1900. to the martyred number about two hundred missionaries and approximately 15,000 Chinese Christians. On July 24th finding that our presence was a source of danger rather than protection to the native church, and being ordered to leave by our government authorities, we left for Shanghai and Japan, wherever the Lord opened the way.

When we were permitted to return the next November we found that the Chinese had entered upon a new era, and the wrath of man was made to praise Him. A new interest was awakened in the indefatigable foreigner, whom they had regarded as having been expelled. The people thronged the chapels and gave unprecedented attention.

The coming autumn Lu Ho was re-manned, property was bought and a dwelling erected. The floods which devastated the country in the summer

Lu Ho building were followed by pestilence on
lot purchased. every side. Sickness with one and

Cost \$135. another interrupted the work, but

Home built the conquest was kept up. Those
1901. who were well doing double duty.

Cost about \$500. Miss Holme who had been on furlough during the Boxer troubles returned in December and took up the work again at Lu Ho.

At the Nanking Boarding School for girls the increased number of pupils demanded larger quarters and during the summer of 1901 a second story was added doubling the space formerly at our disposal. The scholars are now becoming self supporting beyond what was deemed possible before the Boxer movement,

Miss Butler, who by this time was worn from abundant labors returned in the fall to America on her second furlough after a period of eight years of service.

On the 13th of Jan. 1902 a little daughter was born to Drs. Geo. and Isabella DeVol which gave a unique opportunity to illustrate how equally dear we regard the wee girls with the ladies.

Sarah E. Jenkins was from its first organization, the beloved President of the Ohio Board. In 1895 owing to failing health she was succeeded by

Sarah E. Jenkins her daughter Elisabeth M. Jenkins, but she still remained by prayer and loving interest a mother to the

deceased **May 19, 1902** mission. On the 19th of May 1902 she was called, in her 85th year, to continued service in the presence of the Lord. The loss of this beloved mother at home was soon followed by our first bereavement by death on the field. The coming of little Mary was appreciated alike by the natives and foreigners but the course of her sweet little life was soon run. She died at Kuling August 13th, 1902.

It was during this summer that the cholera raged throughout China. At Nanking thousands were stricken. On this account Dr. Gaynor took

Cholera epidemic no rest, but remained the only physician in the city treating the sick and **1902.** sending out thousands of bottles of medicine both preventive and curative, for distribution among the scourge ridden populace. It was a great blow to the mission that fall, when for reasons that seemed to her sufficient, she tendered her resignation to the Board. It was not finally acted upon however until late in the year when Miss Butler returned from America.

One sorrow seemed to follow another. Mrs. Estes had by this time marked herself among us

as a rare soul-winner especially among the children, and by her loving sympathy had endeared herself

Mrs. Estes to many both at Lu Ho and at Nan-
deceased. king. On Nov. 19th she became

Dec 4th. 1902 the happy mother of twin children, Paul and Helen. A few short days were given her for the enjoyment of her darling ones, days of precious witnessing for Jesus, and she was removed to His immediate presence. Little Paul was spared to his bereft but marvelously sustained father for about a month, and then he too was taken to be with his mother. The next spring Mr. Estes, through the assistance of Miss Effie Murray who was returning home on furlough took the dear child Helen to live with his sister-in-law in New England. After a short visit at home he returned to his post of duty. He is at present at Lu Ho where he has a chapel on a principal business street and is otherwise appointed to the educational work, particularly for young men and those preparing for Christian service. The importance of this work it would be difficult to over-estimate. It is the ultimate conviction of all Chinese missionaries that China must be evangelized by the Chinese. Our one great request for prayer at this time is that God would raise up a large number of evangelists for the taking of the gospel to scores of towns which we are unable to visit.

When Miss Butler returned our hearts were again rejoiced by the coming of two new workers.

Miss Eva Pennington Miss Eva A. Pennington, a
and Mrs. Shimer trained nurse for the medical
arrive 1903. work and Mrs. Harriett Shimer and daughter from Cleveland. Their coming was like healing medicine to all hearts after our baptism of sorrow, and sickness, and death. Not many months passed however, before it was discovered that Miss Pennington was not standing

the climate well. She was sent in early summer to Kuling. The elevation that we get there above the malaria line and foul air of the plain has proved a boon to many as a health resort and to all as a place for rest during the sultry season. During the winter of 1903 with the help of some of the kind friends of the mission a serviceable summer home

Kuling home was erected. Miss Pennington recuperated nicely and in the fall began her study of the language again.

1903. During the winter she suffered a great deal, however, and toward spring it was decided that she could not remain in China. In April when Miss Butler was called home on account of the death of her father, Miss Pennington went with her to America. The following fall she was called from her sweet trusting service of earth to an inheritance in the Kingdom of our Father. She was beloved by all who knew her in China and although she was never able to use the language as she would have desired, she was able to witness by the power of a holy life.

The Drs. DeVol who had been engaged in evangelistic and medical work at Lu Ho with Miss Holme were by this time feeling not only the need for new physical strength but a better equipment

Medical work for work. They had opened an **Lu Ho.** opium refuge and a general hospital of twenty-six beds in a native building. Over three thousand patients were seen in a little drug room off from the men's chapel on the street and of the two hundred and ten taken into the hospital during the past year, it is thought that fully eighty per cent confessed Christ. They are now in America on furlough, the medical work in their absence

Miss Janet Carmichael is under the competent supervision of Miss Carmichael, a trained nurse **1904.** who is from Scotland, who is spending a year with us looking toward ultimately joining Friends mission.



PROPOSED SITE OF HOSPITAL AT LO-HO

Hospital site A desirable lot (110 x 96) on the opposite side from the home was purchased in 1903. It is at present regarded as a suitable site for a prospective hospital which it is hoped may be built in the near future. The Lu Ho home being only intended for a single family, it has become necessary by the coming of new workers to make further arrangements for their accommodations. A rented Chinese house has hitherto served the purpose of Street Chapel, Church and Dispensary, but at present the need for a properly appointed church building has become imperative. A large lot has been purchased in a central part of the city, and here it is intended to build a home for single women and also a memorial chapel to be erected by the parents of Philip Ratcliff. The contracts for these buildings have in fact been given out and the work of construction has already begun.

The Nanking hospital was never in a more prosperous condition than at present. Dr. MacGowan,

Dr. MacGowan an, daughter of the missionary
1904 and Chinese historian of that name from Amoy, has taken up the work left by Dr. Gaynor. She is a woman of faith in God and in the efficacy of prayer. Her one object in life is the salvation of lost souls.

Owing to the rapid increase in the value of property and the fact that the cost of building has about doubled during the past few years, the property of the entire mission whose aggregate cost of purchase and construction amounted to \$11,950.00 is at present estimated to be worth about \$17,392.00.

In concluding we would say to the glory of God that every department of the work is at present receiving divine approval and blessing. Souls are being sought and won all along the line. The church membership is not only growing but is becoming established. A monthly meeting has been organized both at Nanking and Lu Ho and a quarterly meeting held alternately at the two centers. The plant which our Father hath planted shall he not prune it and water it and from it reap an abundant harvest unto life eternal?



